Application No.:   10/659,133
Amendment dated: July 24, 2006
Reply to Final Office Action dated: May 23, 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 2-11, 13, 18 and 20 are pending in the application. Claims 2-11, 13, 18 and 20

are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ebrahim et al., U.S. Patent No.

5,644,753 (hereinafter "Ebrahim") in view of Arimilli et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,867,511

(hereinafter "Arimilli").

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 2-11,13,18 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable

over Ebrahim in view of Arimilli. Independent claim 2 of the present application includes the

following limitation:

> wherein access to the partitioned elements by said first and second components is
> controlled based on said first mask value.

Examiner asserts that this element of applicants' claimed invention is taught by column 2, lines 8

to 58 of Arimilli, but Arimilli only mentions using either a "least recently used" (LRU) or

pseudo-LRU method of eviction. *See* Arimilli, column 2, lines 43-46. It does not teach

controlling access based on a mask value. Similarly, the description associated with figure 3,

only describes an LRU eviction method. An LRU method of evicting cache data is based on the

theory that infrequently used data should be evicted rather than frequently used data. It does not

involve controlling the multiple components' access to a resource. Arimilli, therefore, does not

teach the element of applicants' claimed invention that Examiner asserts it does.

Additionally, independent claim 2 contains the following element:

> an access controller coupled to said resource and said at least first and second

- 6 -

SJ01 87680 v1

PAGE 7/9 * RCVD AT 7/24/2006 7:58:51 PM [Eastern Daylight Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-6/37 * DNIS:2738300 * CSID:14089757501 * DURATION (mm-ss):03-32

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        components to store a first mask value

Examiner asserts that this element is taught by Ebrahim. In particular, Examiner points

to the UPANUM field (182), which is described as "a 5-bit mask field that specifies the

maximum number of UPA ports the System Controller can support." *See* Ebrahim,

column 22, lines 8-10. Examiner asserts that 102-1 through 102-n of Ebrahim teach the

first and second components of Applicants' claim, but it does not teach that these

elements store the UPANUM field. In fact, the only description associated with the

UPANUM field is what Applicants have quoted. It is not clear where the 5-bit value

stored in the UPANUM field comes from, or what exactly it does. Examiner has also not

explained how specifying a maximum number of UPA ports teaches controlling a

component's access to a partitioned resource. The UPANUM field appears to represent

nothing more than a system parameter.

      The Ebrahim reference, therefore, does not teach "access to the partitioned

elements by said first and second components is controlled based on said first mask

value," and it also does not teach that "said at least first and second components to store a

first mask value." Accordingly, applicants assert that Ebrahim in combination with

Arimilli does not render applicants' claimed invention obvious.

      In view of the arguments above, applicants assert that independent claim 2 is allowable in

its present form. Independent claims 4, 11, and 18 contain similar limitations to those discussed

above in relation to independent claim 2, and are likewise allowable. Dependent claims 3, 5-10,

13, and 20 are allowable as depending from allowable independent claims. Therefore, applicants

- 7 -

SJOI 87680 v1

PAGE 8/9 * RCVD AT 7/24/2006 7:58:51 PM [Eastern Daylight Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-6/37 * DNIS:2738300 * CSID:14089757501 * DURATION (mm-ss):03-32

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respectfully request that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

It is believed that this Amendment places the application in condition for allowance, and

early favorable consideration of this Amendment is earnestly solicited.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, an interview would expedite the prosecution of this

application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the telephone number
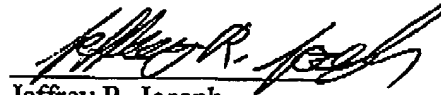
listed below.

The Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees, or credit any overpayments, to

Deposit Account No. **11-0600**.

Respectfully submitted,

KENYON & KENYON LLP

Dated: July 24, 2006   By: _____

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- 8 -

SJ01 87680 v1